

STATE OF LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

P. O. BOX 4368 BATON ROUGE, LA 70821 (225) 219-5600 FAX: (225) 381-7271 1-800-842-6630 www.ethics.state.la.us

June 23, 2014

Donna Y. Frazier Caddo Parish Attorney P.O. Box 1127 Shreveport, LA 71163-1127

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2014-547

Dear Ms. Frazier:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its June 20, 2014 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether Kenneth R. Epperson, as a commissioner for the Caddo Parish Commission, may serve on the Board of Directors for Caddo Community Action Agency. You stated that Mr. Epperson is a commissioner for the Caddo Parish Commission, the governing body of Caddo Parish, and is interested in serving as a non-compensated board member for Caddo Community Action Agency. You provided information that Caddo Community Action Agency is a non-profit entity whose purpose is to provide social services to the poor, disadvantaged, elderly and handicapped persons of Caddo Parish. Further information was provided that the Caddo Parish Commission awards grants to Caddo Community Action Agency through a cooperative endeavor agreement.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics will not prohibit Mr. Epperson from serving as a non-compensated board member for Caddo Community Action Agency. La. R.S. 42:1112B(3) prohibits a public servant from participating in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any person of which he is an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee has a substantial economic interest. La. R.S. 42:1123(1) allows a public servant to participate in the affairs of charitable, religious, nonprofit educational, public service, civic organizations, and bona fide organized public volunteer fire departments when no compensation is received. Because Caddo Community Action Agency is a non-profit public service organization, Mr. Epperson would not be prohibited from serving as one of its board members and participating as a commissioner for the Caddo Parish Commission in transactions in which Caddo Community Action Agency has an economic interest, provided that he does not receive compensation from Caddo Community Action Agency.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Jennifer T. Land For the Board